ACADEMY

UEFA Research Grant Programme





A prestigious grant programme designed to support academic research that improves strategic decision-making in European football

Foreword

The UEFA Research Grant Programme has been a great success since its launch in 2009. It is important for football organisations to have access to sound academic research to support their decision-making. UEFA's member associations play a key role in the programme's success.

By acknowledging their support for research projects, they ensure that their practical value is maximised and that the results ultimately benefit European football as a whole.



Theodore Theodoridis
UEFA General Secretary

Programme overview



WHO

Researchers holding a research position at a university or equivalent institution. Candidates must have a letter of support from a UEFA member association



WHEN

Once a year



HOW LONG

Nine months of research



WHERE

Research is carried out at the participant's institution



GRANT

Individual grant of up to €15,000 or joint grant of up to €20,000



NUMBER OF GRANTS

Usually four to five grants per cycle (total allocation: €75,000)



LANGUAGE

English, French and German



APPLICATION CLOSE

15 March

UEFA Research Grant Programme

The UEFA Research Grant Programme (UEFA RGP) is a prestigious grant programme designed for academics working in partnership with national associations to deliver research that improves strategic decision-making in European football.

The UEFA RGP was established to support visionary research into European football. It is aimed at anyone working on, or already holding, a PhD that involves analysing European football from any one of a variety of academic disciplines. Grant applicants must submit a recommendation letter from a UEFA member association, thus ensuring that their project is undertaken in line with contemporary issues and has the highest practical value possible. In order to foster cooperation between national associations and European universities, up to three researchers based in the territories of three different national associations can submit joint applications. Once completed, the research is shared with the 55 UEFA member associations and is used for growth and development purposes.

Main takeaways

- Opportunity for researchers to conduct their research in the best possible conditions
- Access to both funds and data (from national associations and UEFA)
- International recognition
- Opportunity for national associations and UEFA to access the latest research in order to further develop their own activities and projects

Testimonials



As the recipient of a grant, I have benefited both academically and professionally from the process. The grant enabled me to engage with UEFA and the French and Dutch football associations as part of my research programme, facilitating important findings into referee abuse, experience and training in different cultures and countries. Developing an under-researched subject area and furthering academic and professional understanding have been central to the grant programme and my research.

Dr Tom Webb, Associate Professor in Applied Global Sport Management, Coventry University



The UEFA Research Grant Programme is not just about supporting academic research; it represents a fundamental strategic pillar for the development of football in Europe. For instance, the project supported by the Italian Football Federation in 2018 definitely helped to give a strong boost to the growth of women's football in Italy and further afield. The research provided analysis and insights on governance, financial and organisational aspects for clubs working to the women's game internationally. The findings had great strategic relevance and were instrumental in the definition of guidelines to further develop the sport. The research also evaluated the potential benefits of integrating women's clubs into professional men's clubs.

Niccolò Donna, Head of Research and Development, Italian Football Federation



For the RBFA, it is important to be able to rely on the innovative ideas of the global academic community to learn and keep improving the way we operate as a football association. Thanks to the UEFA RGP, we are able to set up collaborations with national and international researchers on topics that are not only relevant for the Belgian scene, but for the entire European football ecosystem. Examples for us include analyses of the anti-money laundering framework and inclusive communication. We moreover appreciate the bilateral flows of insights between academia and practice, as well as the networking opportunities, thanks to the UEFA RGP.

Matteo Balliauw, Head of Data, Analytics and Insights, Royal Belgian Football Association

Structure

March 15th	Application deadline
April	
May	
June 30th	Applicants are informed of the jury's decision
July	Introductory meeting
August	
September	
October	
November 30th	Researchers submit interim report
December	
January	
February	
March 31st	Researchers submit final report
April	
May	Researchers present their final report to the UEFA RGP Jury, the supporting National Association(s), and UEFA experts
June	

Programme overview

Research fields

Through the UEFA Research Grant Programme, UEFA remains committed to supporting the work of doctoral, postdoctoral and established researchers studying European football in a large variety of academic disciplines. Research proposals in the following fields are particularly welcome, but other topics will be considered by the UEFA Research Grant Jury:

- Economics
- History
- Law
- Management
- Political science
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Sport science

Academics working on medical, wellbeing, anti-doping and health related research can apply to the UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping Research Grant Programme (UEFA MRGP), a specific set of grants, tailor-made to medical topics and under the management of UEFA's medical unit.

Collaboration with national associations

UEFA wishes to promote research projects that focus on topics that are highly relevant to its member associations. There are no priority topics, the idea being to give the associations free rein to decide on the projects that interest them.

Applicants must submit a letter of recommendation written by a president or general secretary/CEO of a UEFA member association in support of the proposed research. Research projects that draw parallels between multiple national associations are also encouraged.

Researchers awarded grants by the jury will have nine months to produce a 40-page final report, as well as a document summarising the outcomes of the research and providing practical recommendations. This practice-based documents will be aimed primarily at the association(s) involved in the project and should be tailored accordingly. They should contain recommendations and avenues to explore for representatives of the association and UEFA.

About the UEFA Academy

Building on the professional expertise that UEFA has established in the course of its history and the learning initiatives that it has created over the last decade, the UEFA Academy provides educational programmes for individuals and organisations alike with a view to constantly elevating the game of football. The UEFA Academy is LIFT certified, recognising the impact of its programmes on people, their organisations and society at large. For details of all our courses, visit UEFAacademy.com.

Joint applications

In order to foster cooperation between its member associations and European universities, UEFA accepts joint applications from several collaborating researchers based in different countries.

We welcome participants from diverse backgrounds and cultures, recognising the unique value that diversity brings to our community. If you have any uncertainties about meeting specific programme criteria, we encourage you to reach out to us.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- have obtained a doctorate and currently hold a research position at a university or equivalent institution; or
- be enrolled as a doctoral student at a university or equivalent institution and currently be preparing a doctoral thesis; and
- obtain a letter of recommendation from a UEFA member association signed by its president or general secretary/CEO.

Applications and final reports must be written in one of UEFA's official languages (English, French or German).

Application process and regulations

The official application form and the UEFA Research Grant Programme Regulations are available on UEFAacademy.com/courses/rgp. Applications must reach UEFA by 15 March in order to be considered. Applications that meet the requirements of the

UEFA Research Grant Programme Regulations are examined by the UEFA Research Grant Jury. This jury comprises a chair, representatives of European football and academics known internationally for their work in connection with sport and football in Europe.

In principle, the jury awards four to five grants to projects involving four or five different national associations and decides on the exact level of funding on a case-by-case basis (up to a maximum of €15,000 per individual grant or €20,000 for joint applications). However, the jury is free to award more or fewer grants.

All relevant deadlines are presented in the UEFA Research Grant Programme Regulations. Applicants may not submit the same project proposal twice without having introduced significant changes and may not submit more than one project proposal during the same UEFA Research Grant Programme cycle.





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